



the RARA RAG

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NO. 4

Meet Your Friends at RARA – December Meeting Notice

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD
Vice-President, RARA

Meet your Friends at RARA on December 1, when we welcome guest speaker Curtis Braun, N2HKD, Senior Engineer at Current Communications. A division of Current Communications Group, LLC, Current Communications is one company that has successfully mastered interference-free BPL technology through innovative products and services.

Curtis and a few of his associates will be on hand to present an overview of Broadband over Power Line technology today and why Current Communications is a leader in providing BPL products and services. In addition to the history of Current Communications, they will discuss BPL architecture, effects on spectrum, capacity and some unique BPL products such as Smart Grid, VoIP, Automatic Meter Read and more.

At the beginning of the 2006 / 2007 RARA meeting season we promised you interesting, educational and timely topics that affect you and your Amateur Radio hobby. Whether we like it or not BPL is here to stay. Here is your opportunity to learn about the future of BPL. Bring your doubts, suspicions, questions and most of all an open mind. RARA is fortunate to have in its membership an industry insider who can address your concerns. No matter which side of the BPL issue you fall on, at the very least you will go away better informed.

Ham Radio Exhibit at RMSC

By Peter Fournia, W2SKY
Education Chairman, RARA

The annual Science and Technology Fair at the Rochester Museum and Science Center will be Dec. 27, 28, 29, 30 (Wednesday - Saturday). This is one of our best opportunities to expose up to 3000 people to ham radio. This is also a great time for you and your family to visit the museum.

We plan to operate an HF station, hopefully with antennas on the roof and with good performance. RDXA and XARC people will be leading this part of the exhibit. We will also have hands-on exhibits of magnetism, electronics, Morse Code and radio. There will be information on our RARA license courses, on the Walworth license course and on our RARA/RIT Explorer Post.

Further information and schedules are on the RARA website www.rochesterham.org. We can not lean too much on our regular instructors and radio educators. They are busy teaching ham classes. We need other people in the ham community to staff this. Please sign up for a 3 hour shift. Does the Rochester ham community have what it takes to staff this exhibit for 1, 2, 3 or all 4 days? It is up to you. Sign up at RARA, RDXA, XARC or with me at w2sky@arrl.net.

RDXA Meeting Program

By Vic Gauvin, K1PY

HOLIDAY DINNER!

Scotch 'n Sirloin

Winton Place

Tuesday, December 12

6 p.m.

Note: One week earlier – 2nd Tuesday

SILENT KEYS

John E. French, W2WIT

November 1, 2006

RaRa Meeting

December 1, 2006 7:30 PM

Henrietta Fire Company #1

3129 East Henrietta Rd

Curtis Braun, N2HKD

What is "BPL" ?

the RARA RAG

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The Prez Sez -

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
President, RARA

I was very happy to see the turnout at this years Auction. Many interesting items and the Auctioning team was able to get everyone home earlier than in previous years. Nice job, Dick and Ed and thanks for everyone's help.

Remember, Meet your friends at RARA, Meet your friends at the Rochester Hamfest. The Rochester Hamfest team is looking for people to assist with Security, Forums, Onsite Tickets, Onsite Tailgate, Onsite RV, and Prize/information booth. These jobs sound interesting and are integral functions for the new hamfest venue.

This also points out the need for RARA to have someone to help coordinate not only these but other functions inside the organization, too. A Volunteer Coordinator would be a useful adjunct to the Membership functions in all of RARA's endeavors.

As mentioned at the November RARA General Membership Meeting, there is a new school ham club at the Webster Central School District, with Norm Turner WB2LQB as the advisor. Norm was one of the first students I had when I was teaching the General Theory for the licensing classes. Best of luck at KC2NNL.

December Calendar of events

- 1 - RaRa Meeting - 7:30 PM - Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 East Henrietta Road
- 7 - RaRa Board of Directors - 8:00PM-RIT Bldg-9, Room 3119
- 8 - RVHFG - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Rd.
- 12 - RDXA - 6:00 PM, Holiday Dinner at Scotch'n Sirloin Restaurant, Winton Place
- 14 - ARES - 7:00PM, monthly meeting at Red Cross, 50 Prince St., Rochester
- 15 - RRRA - Family Night out at MacGregor's Restaurant, 300 Jefferson Rd.
- 16 - RaRa VE Testing session - 10:00AM Bldg-9 Room-3139 RIT Campus, Henrietta

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, December 1986

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian

The December meeting continued a popular event of having RaRa as a guest of one of the Kodak Amateur Radio Clubs. This time it was the Kodak Park ARC with Kodak's building 28 as the venue. Jesse Eichenlaub, of the *Independent Space Research Group* was the guest speaker and the group's goal was to enlist the aid of Amateurs in assisting with their project.

Writing for RaRa and the Winter Fun Fest was John Lloyd, KA2KFV. John says to mark your calendar now for the February 4th event at Mendon Ponds Park. Printed in its entirety was a nice letter from a RaRa past President and very active RRRA member, Ron Jakubowski, K2RJ, who had just recently moved to Solon, Ohio.

Under the RRRA banner, Bernie Agins, KD2CU, reported that the December meeting would be Family night at the Strassenburgh Planetarium. The December 19th show took \$4.00 out of your pocket. In a rare putting of pen to paper, your co-editors, Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP and Jack Dempsey, KA2PJN, offered Holiday wishes and wanted to publicly thank those behind the scenes in getting the Rag out to members. They cited Bud Young, WA2UGE, for getting the copy to the printer each month and Dick Goslee, K2VCZ, who headed up the envelope stuffing crew at K2JD. It was a pleasure to see the YL's recognized by a nice article detailing YL nets and local YL activity written by Marcy Kessler, WA2URE. "Cops Corner" continued to be a popular column written monthly by a member of the Rochester Police Department, Howie Davies, N2CUN.

With regret it was reported that a very active local Radio Amateur became a Silent Key. Henry Blodgett, W2UTH, was a pioneer VHF'er, an active RaRa member, Charter member of RDXA, and early supporter of the Antique Wireless Association. From the Want Ads you could buy a recently completed Heath HW-101 and power supply from Jack Heveron, KJ2P.

**January Rag Deadline
December 15, 2006**

RaRa Hotline
(585) 442-0587
24 hours a day

From the RRRA President's Desk

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY
President, RRRA

It is membership time again. We need everyone to stay with us. There is no "Privilege" for the auto patch because of cell phones, yet if your battery is dead or for some reason the cell phone malfunctions, you do have the capability of the phone patch or for that matter, a good strong reliable repeater system with tremendous coverage compared to what it was prior to 2002. This is where your membership dollars go, to provide you with the very best that we can do to provide members with an updated repeater. Your membership dues also pay for the insurance necessary to protect the organization as well as "YOU" the members from any kind of lawsuit. This insurance also provides us with coverage if we wish to put on a small hamfest/flea market. Please rejoin RRRA, the cost is \$10.00 for membership plus \$5.00 expense surcharge for a total of \$15.00.

I understand we have about 6 people from the Xerox ARC that would like to help us out with our proposed flea market that we would like to have to beef up the treasury a bit. Our minimum is a total of 12 dedicated workers. More to come on that.

This month November 17 is Tune-up clinic night. Please see our new website <http://www.rrra.us> for details. There will be a short business meeting and we will then spend the rest of the evening tuning and checking radios. This is a membership only activity. You can join that evening. Doors open at 7:30PM, Meeting starts at 8:00PM.

I would like to thank Lloyd Caves and his XYL for providing the goodie bags and also for helping to get them out to the Hams at the bridges along the Thruway. We also had donut holes from Krispy Crème as well as cold apple cider. So thanks go out to Greg and Lloyd and XYL and myself as well. The goodie patrol was greatly appreciated.

December brings us the RRRA annual Family Night out and it will be at MacGregor's on Jefferson RD again this year. We all go Dutch treat and order off the menu. See the RRRA web page for more detail.

Rochester Hamfest
June 1-2-3, 2007

Explorer Post 621 Continues!

By Peter Fournia, W2SKY
Education Chairman, RARA

Jim Stefano, W2COP and myself have been firming up arrangements with Jim Wandling of the BSA Otetiana Council regarding restarting explorer post 621. Arrangements have fallen into place to offer this popular program to 24 participants starting early January 2007. The post has a vocational focus on electronics and telecommunications with lots of hands-on lab exercises. Many exercises are borrowed from ham radio and lead by hams.

This program is a partnership between RARA and RIT. The post was previously cosponsored with Kodak and ran for 3 years thanks to the nurturing from Keith Freeberg, N2BEL. The program then went dormant for a year when Kodak dropped its sponsorship of explorer posts. Now, most of the instructors are returning to pick up where we left off.

Thirteen sessions will occur in RIT electrical engineering labs. They will be on Tuesday evenings from 7-9 PM. An informational kick-off meeting with parents will occur on November 21. Participants will commit to the program at that time with a \$40 payment.

About \$300 will be coming from the RARA education fund. Most of that will go toward subsidizing the purchase of an electronic kit that the participants will build, use and keep. Participants may add their own money to purchase a more expensive kit that they may like better. We appreciate those of you who have donated to our RARA education fund. It is essential to our program. We hope to interest a financial sponsor for next year.

Our Explorer programs of past years are outlined on the RARA website. This information will be updated over the next month as our instructors recommit to leading various sessions.

Sidebands: Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
ARRL PIO, WNY Section

Response to Earthquake. The letters to the editor in the October 17 Honolulu *Star-Bulletin* contained opinions about the response to the earthquake that was somewhat reminiscent of what folks were saying after Katrina. Namely, there were complaints about a failure of communications. Yet buried in the column was a short note by Paul Perretta of Honolulu. He noted: "Hawaii's radio hams came through again. Just 30 secs after

Sunday's tremor, radio hams on all islands activated their HF and VHF nets to pass information and coordinate with Civil Defense, the Red Cross, hospitals and others. Using low-power, hand-held and mobile VHF transceivers plus HF (shortwave) transceivers utilizing emergency power supplies, they once again demonstrated their value (much as they did during Hurricane Iniki)."

ARISS Report. Plans to deploy an HF transceiver and a digital TV system in space were among the highlights of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) 2006 International Delegates Meeting October 9-10 near San Francisco. The session also marked ARISS's 10th anniversary. In November 1996, delegates from eight countries met in Houston, Texas, to lay the foundation for the joint educational outreach program and map plans to establish a permanent ham radio presence in space. ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, called the establishment of ARISS "unprecedented, especially for a volunteer effort."

"You all should be proud of what you've accomplished in the last 10 years," Bauer told this year's ARISS gathering. The ARISS goal in 1996, he noted, was "to consolidate all those ham radio voices into one voice." By making it possible for youngsters around the world to speak with the ISS crew via ham radio, he said, the program now touches some 15,000 students each year.

Having said that, during Expedition 14, ARISS expects to have one ARISS school contact per month rather than approximately one per week. It is also anticipated that there may not be as many general contacts. The total number of ARISS school contacts is now 255.

Concerns and Controversy over Red Cross Background Checks. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, is urging Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and other ham radio volunteers to tread cautiously when submitting information for background checks the American Red Cross (ARC) now requires. The ARC, with which the ARRL has a Statement of Understanding (SoU)

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/mou/redcro.html>, notified local chapters that volunteers and staff members must submit to criminal background checks by October 31. Harrison says the requirement extends to ARES volunteers who support Red Cross disaster relief efforts. In a statement <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/RC-Background-Checks0610.pdf>, October 24, Harrison said the League recommends that anyone submitting personal information for a background

check very carefully read what they are giving the ARC permission to collect.

"The Red Cross is requiring volunteers to grant permission for more than just a criminal background check," Harrison asserted. "They are also requiring permission to draw a consumer and/or investigative consumer report on the volunteer." Harrison said that could also include credit and mode-of-living checks. "The Red Cross has stated that they will not use credit reports," he noted. "Requiring that volunteers authorize the procurement of a credit report is inconsistent with this assurance."

The ARC has contracted with MyBackgroundCheck.com LLC (MBC) to handle the on-line background checks. Prospective volunteers visit a secure, encrypted Web site <http://www.mybackgroundcheck.com/>, click on the ARC logo and submit name, address, Social Security number (or other acceptable government ID), telephone number, and date of birth. The Red Cross says the overall results of the background check are not shared with the ARC.

Emergency Management is Top Priority of Maryland Governor. Recognizing the significant role that the amateur radio community can play during a disaster, Governor Robert Ehrlich, Jr. has sought to increase the community's involvement in Maryland's emergency management structure. As a result, on October 24, members of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security (GOHS) met with representatives of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) to discuss possible roles for ARES in the State's emergency planning and response processes. The meeting was arranged by Howard Rensin, KC3D, a member of the Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council (GEMAC). Each of the representatives of the GOHS expressed a strong desire to find a way for the State of Maryland to be able to use the resources of ARES and to integrate ARES into the State's emergency management plans. Keith Hart, Director of the Office of Volunteerism, and Dr. Robert Bass, from Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems, both suggested that ARES could play an important role in the disaster response plans of their respective organizations.

Miscellany. While not ham-related, it is worthy to note that November 18, 1929 is an especially historic date in the field of communications. On that day, before a meeting of the Institute of Radio Engineers, Dr. V.K. Zworykin demonstrated his cathode ray television receiver.

10th Annual XARC Foxhunt

by Judy Stonehill, N2KXS

The 10th annual Xerox Amateur Radio Club Foxhunt was held on Saturday morning, October 28, 2006. A group of thirteen intrepid foxhunters braved the rainy weather and met at the Egypt Town Park at the corner of Route 31 and Victor Road. The hunting equipment used for this hunt was most impressive. It ran the gamut from yagis with active attenuators to a very sophisticated Doppler/GPS unit with a custom written interface that indicated bearing and strength to the fox on a laptop.

Hunt masters Judy Stonehill, N2KXS, and Fred Miller, WO2P, reviewed the rules with the participants and sent the hunters off at 0930. The Hunt consisted of locating two foxes, both transmitting on 146.565mhz. The first fox was a mini-fox hidden near the starting point with an output of 100mw. A message taped to the fox directed hunters to drive to Casa Larga Winery, about 3 miles southwest of the starting point, and to take a bearing, then find the second fox. The second fox was hidden 5 miles southwest of the starting point in the Fishers Town Park. It was hidden in a ravine halfway up a large hill. I was running 7 watts into a 5 element cubical quad that pointed northeast back toward the starting point.

The hunters had no problems locating the first fox on foot and within 10 minutes all were on route to Casa Larga. After a quick bearing, all but one team made the determination that fox was somewhere southwest and within an hour, most of the hunters arrived at the Fishers Park. There are two trails into the park that would lead to the fox. Just to add to the challenge, both trails had turned swampy in spots due to the constant rain. Within a short period of time, the first team located the fox by taking the shorter trail, followed rather quickly by other teams who took the longer trail.

The hunt concluded at 1200 and everyone adjourned to McGregor's Restaurant on Route 31 for lunch, sharing of hunting stories, and the award ceremony.

**RaRa Memorial
Scholarship
Application Deadline
April 15, 2007**

Directory Deadline

By Dick Goslee, KG2I
Editor, RARA Directory

The deadline for information for the directory is December 31st, for inclusion in the 2007 RARA Directory. Check your address label for this month's RAG and make sure the listing is correct. That same address is the one that will be listed in the directory. Also if you have a Winter Address and a Summer address please make sure that I have both of them. That way other hams will know where to reach you all during the year. It also insures that the RAG will be sent to the correct address. Due to the Post Office changing their regulations and costs for forwarding your mail it will save you, and RARA, some expense in making sure you get your copy each month.

Scholarship Deadline April 15, 2007

By George Masny, KA2GPJ
Treasurer, RARA

The "Rochester Amateur Radio Association Memorial Scholarship" was established with generous donations made in memory of A. Leland Zwack, W2WPF; William Buchan, W2OMV and William Resch, K4VOS. Due to an increase in 2006 the scholarship is now worth \$500.00. The scholarship is available to any licensed Amateur Radio operator who is or will be pursuing any degree of Associate level or higher in any accredited school beyond high school. The individual must be a member of RARA and a resident of New York State. The scholarship is for one individual in one year, but the recipient may reapply for subsequent years. Previous winners of the Scholarship include Kellie Gauvin, KB2CHC, (01); Kristy Dibelka, KC2GKE, (02); John McIntyre, KC2JSJ, (03 & 04); Alexander Rossbach, KC2JUN, (05); and Robbie Escriva, KC2DQN (06).

Applications are due no later than April 15th. The RaRa Board of Directors and Scholarship Committee will make a final decision by May 15th. The actual award will be presented at the annual RARA Hamfest Banquet held June 1, 2007.

Applications for the scholarship may be obtained at RaRa general meetings, by mail at P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333 or by calling the RaRa phone at 585-442-0587. Additional information and a copy of the application is available on the Rochester Amateur Radio Association web site at:

<http://www.rochesterham.org/scholarship.htm>, or from one of the officers.

Donations may be made to the Scholarship Fund in memory of W2WPF, W2OMV, K4VOS or any other silent key, or if you would just like to make a donation to the fund, it should be sent to: Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., Memorial Scholarship, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333. All donations are "Tax Deductable".

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Contact: Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, (585) 367-9356 or wa2znc@juno.com

Thanks for your Donations

By George Masny, KA2GPJ
Treasurer, RARA

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who sent in donations to RARA along with their membership dues this year. Donations have been made to the general fund, the Memorial Scholarship and the Educational Fund. The donations to the special funds are very important to us in continuing these programs. We appreciate your help.

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

**All Elements needed
to complete a license class.**

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**Registration – 10:00AM
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June 1 - 2 - 3, 2007**

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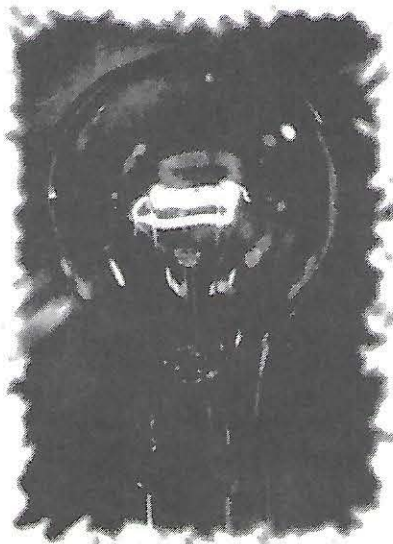
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